REMARKS

Claims 10, 12-16, 28, and 30-38 are pending in the present application.

Claims 10, 12-16, 28, and 30-34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ben-Meir et al. (U.S. Patent Number 5,652,893) (hereinafter "Ben-Meir") in view of Raji et al. (U.S. Patent Number 5,812,882) (hereinafter "Raji"). Applicant respectfully traverses at least portions of this rejection.

Claims 35-38 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ben-Meir and Raji in view of Weinstein (U.S. Patent Number 5,939,799). Applicant respectfully traverses at least portions of this rejection.

Applicant's claim 10 recites

> "An apparatus, comprising:
>
> a first redundant source of power adapted to provide power to a first split path; and
>
> a second redundant source of power adapted to provide power to a second split path, wherein the first and second split paths are adapted to convey signals corresponding to a first portion and a second portion of a message, respectively in parallel from a source to a destination."

The Examiner asserts in his rejection of claim 10 "Ben-Meir discloses the use of a first and second power supply that are connected to backplane. Ben-Meir also teaches the lines being redundant (see Fig. 1, col. 2, lines 1-8, and col. 3. lines 15-38). This is interpreted as a first redundant source of power adapted to provide power to a first split path, and a second redundant source of power adapted to provide power to a second split path, wherein the first and second split paths are adapted to transmit signals."

The Examiner acknowledges Ben-Meir does not teach a first portion and a second portion of a message, respectively in parallel from a source to a destination. However,

the Examiner asserts "Ben-Meir does teach redundant transmission and reception lines (see col. 2, lines 2-4)." The Examiner further asserts "Raji teaches a system have two backplanes in parallel in a system that includes redundant power supplies (see Col. 11, lines 37-44)."

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's characterizations and interpretations of Ben-Meir and Raji and the Applicant's claims. Specifically, Ben-Meir discloses at col. 2, lines 1-8,

> "Often, lines to and from the stations are provided in a redundant manner (transmission, reception lines). Redundant power elements and redundant controller elements are also generally known. This is **an extra or additional power supply** which is held **in waiting as a back-up power supply**, in case of the failure of the primary power supply." (Emphasis added)

Ben-Meir also discloses at col. 3. lines 15-38

> "A further object of the invention is to provide an automated, real-time, intelligent power management system which includes redundant power sources for systems operation, to ensure a fault recovery process, and to ensure fault recovery as to critical systems such as networking equipment.
> I...
> According to the invention, a power management system for local area network hubs comprises a network switching hub including a connection backplane with a plurality of connection slots for electronic modules that constitute the hub payload, and connection slots for intelligent modules such as a hub controller module. The hub includes a power supply having one or more elements providing a maximum power available for the system. Each power supply element has a memory providing power supply element type information from which power delivery capability is derived." (Emphasis added)

However, Ben-Meir further discloses at col. 3 line 55 through col. 4, line 6

> "The hub controller module processor determines available power by collecting the power supply element type information for each power supply element installed in the hub. The power delivery capability for each power supply element is derived from the type information and a total available power budget determined. Power supply elements installed in the hub add incremental amounts to

> the available power budget based on the power supply dement type and capacity. All power supply elements installed are online and delivering power to the hub. In addition each power supply element is an autonomous entity in the event of the failure of other power supply elements. This represents a fault tolerant mode of operation of the power supply as a whole, based on the autonomous operation of the individual power supply elements. Using this quality, power supply elements and their delivered total available power budget can be intelligently managed to provide power supply element fault tolerance using an N+M power supply element reservation scheme." (Emphasis added)

From the foregoing, it appears that in his discussion of prior art Ben-Meir teaches redundant power supply elements (e.g., power elements, controllers and lines). However, Ben-Meir **does not teach** redundant lines being used in parallel to convey **respective portions of a message**. More particularly, Ben-Meir only teaches that redundant power elements are used in parallel **and not** over redundant lines, nor to power redundant signal path elements. This is clearly different than having a redundant source of power for each split path, wherein each split path conveys respective portions of a message in parallel.

Raji discloses at col. 11, lines 3-44

> "One of the important features of the present invention is the modularity of the system. The provision of two distinct busses, 80 and 116, in the central station 50 allows for the modularity of the digital dictation system 10 (FIG. 2). The multiplexed bus 80 can carry up to 128 voice and data channel pairs in the preferred embodiment of the present invention. To vary the number of dictation stations 20 or transcription stations 30 that can be serviced by the modular dictation system 10, the number of line interface cards 70 and signal processing cards 90 that are connected to multiplexed bus 80 is varied....This modularity allows the preferred modular digital dictation system 10 to be expanded as desired by the user up to a maximum of 128 voice and data channels in increments of a few channels at a time, eight in the preferred embodiment.
> The use of the standard AT bus 116 to receive and store files allows the files to be readily communicated to other standard computers and networks... Thus, use of the AT ISA bus 116 allows for standardized treatment and communication of files that contain digitized dictation signals.
> Turning now to FIG. 3, a front perspective view of the central station 50 is shown. In the preferred embodiment of the present invention, the multiplexed bus 80 is formed on backplane 81 of the central station 50. An additional backplane 117, in parallel with backplane 81, carries the ISA

bus 116. The functions of and electrical connections for the multiplexed and ISA busses 80 and 116, respectively, are described in detail below." (Emphasis added)

From the foregoing, Raji discloses using **two different types of buses** in parallel, with two entirely different uses. Clearly, the buses (and therefore the backplanes) are not redundant, and each the two buses does not convey a respective portion of a message. Thus, Raji is not relevant to the claimed invention. Thus, not only is Raji not properly combinable with Ben-Meir, but Raji does not teach what the Examiner is asserting that it teaches. Furthermore, as disclosed at col. 12, lines 26-45 of Raji, the redundant power supplies are supplies for the entire central station 50. This is clearly different than having a redundant source of power for each split path.

Weinstein discloses using a single capacitor to provide power to a system during a switchover from a primary power supply to a backup secondary power supply thereby keeping the voltage from sagging too low during the switching time.

Thus, Applicant submits **neither** Ben-Meir nor Raji, taken either singly or in combination, **teaches or discloses** "a **first redundant source of power** adapted to provide power to **a first split path**," nor does either Ben-Meir or Raji teach or disclose "a **second redundant source of power** adapted to provide power to **a second split path**, wherein the first and second split paths are adapted to convey signals corresponding to a first portion and a second portion of a message, respectively in parallel from a source to a destination," as recited in Applicant's claim 10.

Applicant submits claims 12 and 13 recite "the first redundant source of power comprises a first and a second power supply adapted to provide a first and a second portion of power to the first split path," and "wherein the second redundant source of power comprises a third and a fourth power supply adapted to provide a third and a fourth portion of power to the second split path." Applicant submits these features are not taught or suggested in any of the references.

Accordingly, Applicant submits Claim 10, along with its dependent claims, patentably distinguishes over Ben-Meir in view of Raji, and over Ben-Meir and Raji, in view of Weinstein for the reasons given above.

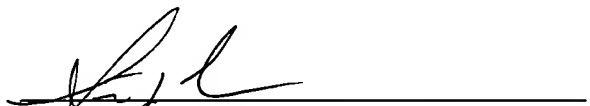
Applicant's claim 28 recites language that is similar to the language recited in claim 10. Accordingly, Applicant submits claim 28, along with its dependent claims, patentably distinguishes over Ben-Meir in view of Raji, and over Ben-Meir and Raji, in view of Weinstein for at least the reasons given above.

CONCLUSION

Applicant submits the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is requested.

If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert, & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account No. 501505/5681-53300/SJC.

Respectfully submitted,



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